

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: SOLAR ELECTRO-OPTICAL NETWORK (SEON) FACILITY

REF: A. STATE 15769 B. ATHENS 8905 (DTG 281443Z SEP 77)
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. REF A REQUESTED AND REF B ADVISED OF GOVERNMENT OF
GREECE APPROVAL OF THE INSTALLATION OF A SEON FACILITY IN
GREECE. REF. B ALSO APPROVED SITE SURVEYS OF VARIOUS
POSSIBLE LOCATIONS IN GREECE FOR SUCH AN INSTALLATION. THE
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SURVEYS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT
COLLOCATION WITH THE ASTRONOMICS FACILITY PRESENTLY OPER-
ATED BY THE GREEK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY OF ATHENS (NOA) AT
KRYONERI IS THE MOST SUITABLE LOCATION. REQUEST EMBASSY
SO INFORM APPROPRIATE GREEK AGENCIES.

2. THE SEON SITE WOULD BE COMPOSED OF FIXED GROUND BASED

EQUIPMENT HOUSED IN SPECIALLY DESIGNED FACILITIES. THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY NETWORK (SOON) PORTION WOULD CONSIST OF A TEN INCH DIAMETER POLAR AXIS REFRACTING TELESCOPE, COMPUTER AND ASSOCIATED FACILITY FOR HOUSING THE EQUIPMENT. THE RADIO SOLAR TELESCOPE NETWORK WOULD CONSIST OF A 28 FOOT (8.6 METER), 8 FOOT (2.4 METER) AND A 3 FOOT (1 METER) PARABOLIC RECEIVING ANTENNAE ALONG WITH STABLE LOW NOISE RECEIVERS HOUSED IN A FACILITY PHYSICALLY SEPARATED FROM

THE SOON FACILITY. ALL EQUIPMENT IS OF A PASSIVE NON-RADIATING OPTICAL AND RADIO RECEIVING NATURE, AND BOTH EQUIPMENT AND STRUCTURES WOULD BE OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. SITE MANNING WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 17 OPERATORS AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. INITIAL STAFFING OF 2 AIR WEATHER SERVICE (AWS), 1 AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (AFCS) AND 14 HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL IS DESIRED. THIS MIX OF PERSONNEL IS NEGOTIABLE; HOWEVER, MAXIMUM HOST COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SITE IS ENCOURAGED. HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PROPOSED SITE WILL ENHANCE THE PRESTIGE OF PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. THE SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF THE SYSTEM AND THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE DATA PRODUCED BY SEON GIVE THE HOST COUNTRY A POSITIVE VISIBILITY IN THE SENSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRIBUTING TO A GLOBAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONSISTENT SYNOPTIC SOLAR OBSERVATIONS. THIS VISIBILITY WILL BE ENHANCED DURING THE FORTHCOMING SOLAR ACTIVITY MAXIMUM FORECAST FOR THE CY80-81 PERIOD. UPCOMING MANNED SPACE FLIGHT MISSIONS WILL ALSO REQUIRE SUPPORT FROM THE SEON.

4. THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS NOT CLASSIFIED NOR IS THE DATA GATHERED BY THE SITE. SUCH DATA WOULD BE RELEASED AND SHARED WITH HOST AGENCIES. RELEASE OF DATA TO THIRD COUNTRIES COULD BE NEGOTIATED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BETWEEN U.S. AND GREEK AUTHORITIES. AIR WEATHER SERVICE (AWS) CURRENTLY SHARES SUCH DATA FROM OTHER FACILITIES WITH THE GREEK SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND WITH NOA.

5. FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, INCREASED CAPACITY ELECTRICAL SERVICE AND OTHER SITE IMPROVEMENTS COSTING \$1,000,000.00 SHOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LOCAL LABOR AND BUSINESS. THESE GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL COMPLEMENT THE NOA FACILITIES ALREADY PRESENT AT THE KRYONERI OBSERVATORY. THE AVAILABLE SITE FACILITIES WILL BE MORE COMPREHENSIVE THEREBY PROVIDING INCREASED SITE RESOURCES FOR ALL USERS OF THE KRYONERI OBSERVATORY.

6. FYI IN ORDER TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DETAILS OF THIS VENTURE, A TEAM CONSISTING OF A TEAM CHIEF, ONE TECHNICAL EXPERT FROM AIR WEATHER SERVICE, AN AIR STAFF REPRESENTATIVE AND POSSIBLY A DEFENSE (ISA/FMRA) REPRESENTATIVE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AT EMBASSY AND GOG CONVENIENCE. THIS TEAM WOULD NEED SOME SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE OF USDAO STAFF. REQUEST YOU COORDINATE WITH HOST OFFICIALS TO ARRANGE FOR A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

7. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO ESTABLISH SEON FACILITY CAN BE EFFECTED THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX II OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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1953 MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT (QUOTE MFA UNQUOTE). THE NATIONAL OBSERVATORY OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES AND USAF CAN THEN CONCLUDE IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER APPENDIX I OF 1953 MFA. (END CONFIDENTIAL) END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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